APR – SEP 2024 AS LVIII

The Meiassis Dragon

BARONY OF DRAGONSSPINE
dragonsspine.outlands.org

Unto the Good Populace of the Barony of Dragonsspine,

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your enthusiasm and dedication throughout this summer's incredible events. Whether you crossed blades at Battlemoor, cheered your comrades onto victory on the field at Champions, or witnessed the thrilling twang of arrows at Flights of Fury, your presence and spirit have made this season unforgettable!

It was a season of fierce competition, shared victories, and new friendships. Together, we've shown that the heart of our Barony beats strong, no matter the challenges we face. The joy and camaraderie we experienced in the sun will no doubt carry us forward as we prepare for the colder months ahead.

As we look to the fall, may we embrace the coming feasts, revels, and gatherings with the same energy. There will be many opportunities to share food, laughter, and fellowship, and I eagerly anticipate the memories we will continue to create together.

Thank you again for your tireless participation, and here's to the warmth of friendship and the excitement of what lies ahead!

In Service to the Dream,
Turlough and Adelaisa
Barun and Baronessa of Dragonsspine

"Esperance" and Peerage Order Names

The following was originally published on Facebook on August 9, 2024. The spelling "Esperaunce" is left intact from the original post, though the name currently in process as of August 16, 2025, is "Esperance." I tend to write more formally and evenly for this site than I do on social media or my opinion pieces hosted on the main Poore House site, so I hope that you will forgive the more playful tone I take here. -Cormac

ꕥ

Peerage Order Names. Let's talk about them.

A number of people are dissatisfied with the name "Order of Esperaunce" because they feel it doesn't reflect the identity of the ranged weapons community.

And they're right, it doesn't. And that's because it hasn't been used by the ranged weapons community yet. They haven't wrapped their identity around the word and claimed it as their own.

Consider:

A **laurel** wreath is a symbol of triumph from Ancient Greece. They were given to victors in the Olympics and were worn by commanders during Roman triumphal marches. Only in the SCA do we think of laurel wreaths as a symbol of Arts & Sciences, specifically.

A **pelican** in its piety is a symbol of death and resurrection. In early Christian semiotics, the pelican was described as killing her young, lamenting for three days, then reviving them with blood from her own breast, mirroring G-d's wrath and Jesus' sacrifice. Only in the SCA do we think of pelicans as a symbol of Service, specifically.

Historic **rose** symbology is all over the place, from being icons of both Aphrodite and the Virgin Mary to more modern associations; anything from love and passion to English nationalism and Socialism. As Umberto Eco said about his book The Name of the Rose: "the rose is a symbolic figure so rich in meanings that by now it hardly has any meaning left." There's a definite feminine association with roses from early history, but only in the SCA do we associate wreaths or chaplets of roses with former royal consorts, specifically.

(Yes, I am cribbing from Wikipedia. And if you noticed, you're reading along with me, so hush.)

But those are three Orders with abstract names and symbols, and they're not the martial orders. Perhaps those who don't like "Esperaunce" want something closer to what the fighting peers have.

Now, Chivalry is certainly tied to both medieval warrior culture and fighting with swords in suits of armor, so the **Order of Chivalry** can certainly be said to have a name that had ties to its activity before it was chosen. But "Order of Chivalry" is a blanket group consisting of two different Orders, each with their own names. And…friends, the names are painfully on the nose.

First let's talk about the **Order of Knighthood**. Chivalric orders in period all had names and symbols attached to them. The Order of the Garter, the *Ordre de la Toison d'Or*, the Order of the Star, the Knights of the Round Table, and so on.

What do we have in the SCA? The Order of Knighthood. Who are they? Knights. Knights of what, exactly? Uhhh, Knights of the Order of Knighthood! While the phrase "Knight of the Society for Creative Anachronism" is a protected phrase, in order to actually be a Knight of the SCA, the registered name would have to be "The Order of the Society for Creative Anachronism," or at least "The Order/Society of/for Creative Anachronism." But no, it was important enough to the knights in the early days of the Society that no one else in the SCA ever be known as Knights that they named their Order "Knighthood." One could not imagine a more generic name for an order of armored combatants.

That is, until we get to the **Order of Mastery of Arms**. Literally "The Order of being the best at fighting with weapons." There is no symbolism here, no poetry, no greater vision. Like the Order of Knighthood, the name Order of Mastery of Arms is bland and generic. More importantly, both of these names were chosen within the first year and a half of the Society, before there was a College of Arms and any sort of research into what Order names in period looked like.

And their blandness shows in how little anyone actually uses them. Despite having different titles, forms of address, regalia, and requirements for entry, the Order of Knighthood and the Order of Mastery of Arms are almost never referred to by name, but instead are always called "The Chivalry."

"Esperance" and Peerage Order Names (continued)

The **Order of Defense** is a little bit more subtle in its naming than Knighthood or Mastery of Arms. The name is intended to evoke the Company of the Masters of Defence (commonly known as the London Masters of Defence), a group of fencing instructors in Tudor England who founded a guild to protect their livelihoods.

However, the choice of the phrase "Masters of Defence" by the Tudor Company followed not a chivalric order pattern, but instead a guild pattern, like the Worshipful Company of Grocers or the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers. It was a choice that was handed to the heralds by the Board of Directors, with no acknowledgment or understanding of the rules for Order names that the Board themselves approved in SENA. And the actual documentation for the name in the submission doesn't mention the London Masters at all; it's stunt-documented to follow the pattern of "Order of [the name of either the founder or inspiration of the Order]," with the name Elizabeth Defence (buried 1593, St. Botolph Aldgate, London, England) providing sufficient evidence that the Order could be called "Order of Defence."

Several lessons were learned in the way that the Board handled the creation of the Order of Defense. And chief among them was "don't tell the heralds what you want and then demand that they make it fit within their rules. Instead, trust them to be the subject matter experts that they are and come up with the best name they can."

And so after careful deliberation, the heralds presented for consideration of the Society the "**Order of Esperaunce**." It shares its name with the *Ordre d'Esperance*, a chivalric order from Bourbon founded in the 14th century. The Percys, Earls (and later Dukes) of Northumberland had Esperance Herald as the herald of their household, and "Esperance!" was the battle cry of their armies. Like the word chivalry, esperaunce has several meanings, including hope, confidence, and trust.

The heralds involved in this deliberation and decision are ones who care deeply about the success of this Order, and include target archers, combat archers, throwers, and siege engineers. We are a part of the ranged martial community.

Could we have found an Order name that followed our rules while better describing the skills, weaponry, or actions of the ranged weapons community? Possibly…but what? Nearly every iteration of "Order of the [weapon or piece of equipment]" was rejected because it excluded potential members. Order of the Arrow would exclude thrown weapons and siege engines, Order of the Target would exclude combat archers and siege engineers, and so forth.

And if the name wasn't exclusive, chances are it was already taken. The College of Arms has registered ~60,000 items in its time, and has 20 kingdoms, 8 principalities, and 185 baronies who have all been trying to register names for their ranged martial artists over the course of 60 years. This is in addition to groups outside of the SCA whose name and fame (or infamy) are sufficient enough that we are obliged to protect them from presumption.

So, Esperaunce is the Order name on the table. It's not the only name we considered, and there are backups in case the Board rejects the first.

But importantly, whatever name gets chosen will, through time and use in ceremony and culture, become as closely associated with ranged martial pursuits as the Pelican is to service and the Laurel is to arts and sciences.

ᘓ

Reprinted with permission, Copyright 2024 by Kevin Rhodes (aka Cormac Mór), https://herald.poore-house.com/protocol/on-the-order-of-esperance/on-esperance/

Battlemoor archers, Photo by Karma Tinzin Khandro, 2024

Upcoming Events

October 11 @ 4 pm – October 13 @ 12 pm
Siege of the City
City of Rocks State Park
327 NM-61, Faywood, New Mexico
Come fight among the rocks! Siege of the City will take place the weekend of October 11th at the always mysterious and magical City of Rocks State Park, between Deming and Silver City, NM.

October 19 @ 8 am – October 20 @ 4 pm
Fall Crown Tournament
St. Vrain Memorial Building
700 Longs Peak Ave, Longmont, Colorado
Come see the majesty and spectacle that is the time-honored tradition of finding Heirs to the Stag Throne! Witness mighty warriors fight in honor of their consorts to secure their name in Outlands history.

October 25 @ 2:30 pm – October 28 @ 12 pm
The Guild Presents: A Sworded Nocks
Cedro Peak Campground
Cedro Peak Rd, Tijeras, New Mexico
A Sworded Affaire and Nock on Wood. Two legendary events. Come test your mettle by steel, bowstring, or pillow! It's gonna be a good time.

October 27 @ 1 pm – 4 pm
Haunting At Hillcrest / Demo
Hilcrest Park Zoo
1208 N Norris St, Clovis, New Mexico
Join us for a spooktacular afternoon of family-friendly fun at the Haunting at Hillcrest Park Zoo! This exciting event is perfect for kids of all ages, and it promises to be a memorable day filled with trick-or-treating, games, and Halloween-themed activities.

November 1 @ 9 am – November 3 @ 12 pm
DAAC Renaissance Faire – Nahrun Kabirun – Demo
Youngs Park
850 Walnut Ave, Las Cruces, New Mexico, United States
The DAAC Renaissance Faire is the largest recruitment event for the Southern Outlands. Come join us as we set up a medieval village, complete with camp kitchen, blacksmithing, heavy and light fighting, A&S demos, and displays.

November 9 @ 9 am – 8 pm
Unser Hafen Newcomers & Baronial Polling
Johnstown YMCA
165 Settler Way, Johnstown, Colorado, United States
Discover secrets of history, combat, arts, crafts, and culture from our seasoned members at the class tables. Learn and enjoy the dances of yore, and indulge in a royal banquet. Delight in enchanting tales and melodies during the bardic competition and witness sword and shield clash in honorable combat in the tournaments.

November 16 @ 8 am – 9 pm
StagsCon
First United Methodist Church of Pueblo
310 W 11th St, Pueblo, Colorado
Join us for the STAGSCON 2024 event. This event is garb optional, mundane attire welcome. This event will be a re-imagined series of workshops for the volunteers of the kingdom and will be a day of collaboration, information sharing and most importantly, face to face collaborations.

November 24 @ 9 am – 5 pm
St. Sebastians
Rocky Mountain Specialty Gear
4298 Kipling St. Unit B, Wheat Ridge, Colorado
St Sebastian's is the longest running archery only event in the Outlands. The first one was in May 1986 being AS XXI. For almost 38 years, this has been the Grand Lady of Outlands Archery events.

December 7 @ 1 pm – 5 pm
Winter Feast
Carbondale Community School
1505 Santank Rd, Carbondale, Colorado
This year's Winter's Feast is being held in Carbondale, CO in the beautiful Rocky Mountains just outside of Glenwood Springs, CO. So consider coming up for a weekend and enjoy the local winter activities and the hot springs this area offers.

December 7 @ 1 pm – 10 pm
Windkeep 40th Year & Yule Fest
David Romero Park
1317 Parsley Blvd, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Fill your day with visiting, games, tourneys and more. The evening repast will consist of favorite dishes served in the shire over the past 40 years.

December 14 @ 8 am – 5 pm
Caer Galen Midwinter [Tentative]

Go to the Outlands Calendar of Events for more information.

December 21 @ 9 am – December 22 @ 3 pm
al-Barran Midwinter & War Practice
Ballut Abyad Shriners
6600 Zuni Rd SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Join us for a day of games, contests, and revelry at al-Barran Midwinter!

Baronial Court

Baron
Maistir Toirrdhealbhaigh mic Aonghusa (just Turlough) baron@dragonsspine.org

Baroness
Magistra Adelaisa Bernois baroness@dragonsspine.org

Officers of the Barony

Seneschal
THL Sorcha MacGillavrey
seneschal@dragonsspine.org

Scalene Pursuivant
Baron Timothy O'Brien
herald@dragonsspine.org

Exchequer
Lord Hrafn Corvin Vaeristad
exchequer@dragonsspine.org

Chatelaine
THL Robert Hunteman
newcomers@dragonsspine.org

Knight Marshal
Lord Lucius V. Atticus
marshal@dragonsspine.org

Gold Key
Lady Alexis of Dragonsspine
goldkey@dragonsspine.org

Rapier Marshal
Master Seamus MacRae
rapier@dragonsspine.org

Chronicler
Lady Alexis of Dragonsspine
goldkey@dragonsspine.org

Captain of Archers
THL Kristofer hárfagri
archery@dragonsspine.org

Minister of the Web
(Vacant)
webminister@dragonsspine.org

Minister of Arts & Sciences
Lord Eanred of Tamworthie
arts@dragonsspine.org

Scribe
THL Angel d'Auvergne
scribe@dragonsspine.org

Equestrian Marshal
Stalmeisterin Apollonia Zawmstricker
equestrian@dragonsspine.org

Minister of the Lists
Countess Eorann O'Connor
listminister@dragonsspine.org

Minister of Youth
Lady Reyna Frogge
youth@dragonsspine.org

Quartermaster
Master Adelric Falke
quartermaster@dragonsspine.org

Social Media
(Vacant)
socialmedia@dragonsspine.org

Non-electronic correspondence to the Barony can be addressed to:
SCA Dragonsspine
PO Box 374
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

What's going on?

Legal Information

This is the Meiassas Dragon, an electronic publication of The Barony of Dragonsspine of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

Copyright © 2024 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting articles, artwork, or photographs from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

Thanks and Credits

All artwork or creative works have been used with permission and according to their Terms of Use.

All photography, unless. otherwise noted, by Madame Adelaisa Bernois.

Artwork for group heraldic devices by Emma de Fetherstan (Jennifer Smuth).

Artwork for officers' badges by Chiara Francesca Arianna d'Onofrio (Francesca V. Havas).

Regular Activities

Fighter Practice

Sundays

Winter: Archery School of the Rockies 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Summer: Nancy Lewis Park 5:00 PM to dark

Archery Practice

Sundays

Summer: Sir Ton's Field 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Weather Dependent

Business Meeting

via Zoom on the second Monday at 7:30 pm.

Dragonmoot

2nd and 4th Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 East Library

A&S/Largesse Workshops

As Needed/Varied

All meetings may be cancelled or changed at the host's discretion. Please keep an eye on the Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Addresses

Archery School of the Rockies: 2110 Busch Ave, 80904

Nancy Lewis Park: 2615 N Logan Ave, 80907

Sir Ton's Field: NE corner of McFerran Rd & Hungate Rd, Black Forest, 80908

Who are we?

The Barony of Dragonsspine is a local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA), within the Kingdom of the Outlands.

The SCA is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to learning more about the Middle Ages through reenactment. There are SCA chapters worldwide, and they hold regular feasts, tournaments, balls, and battles.

The Outlands includes New Mexico, Colorado, and parts of Texas and Wyoming.

Dragonsspine includes El Paso and Teller County, Colorado—centered on Colorado Springs, CO.

Wherever you are, we're a friendly group of people, so why not visit us all?

We're on the Web at: dragonsspine.outlands.org

We're also. on Facebook as Barony of Dragonsspine